

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study for Callahan Creek in Wise County. This stream was identified on the 1998 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for the Aquatic Life Use - General Standard (benthic). In 2004, the stream was listed for the Recreational Use due to bacteria violations also.

The first public meeting on the development of the TMDL to address the benthic and bacteria impairments will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2004 at the Appalachian Cultural Arts Center in Appalachia, Virginia. The purpose of the study is to identify sources and determine reductions of pollutants so that the stream can meet the water quality standards.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

Callahan Creek is in Wise County north of Appalachia, Virginia. The impairments include about 5.2 miles of stream. The lower 2 miles has both bacteria and benthic impairments and the upper 3 miles are listed for bacteria violations only. The upstream impairment ends just above Stonega at Possum Trot Hollow.

The public comment period will end on **September 13, 2004**. The fact sheets describing the impairments are available upon request or can be viewed at the DEQ website: <http://www.deq.state.va.us>. Address questions or information requests to Nancy T. Norton, P. E. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212-1688, telephone (276) 676-4807, fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail ntnorton@deq.state.va.us.